



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor Patent Application of)	
Masahiro OZAWA)	Group Art Unit: Unassigned
Application No.: 10/699,700)	Examiner: Unassigned
Filed: November 4, 2003)	Confirmation No.: Unassigned
For: IMAGE PROCESSING DEVICE,)	
IMAGE PROCESSING METHOD,)	
IMAGE PROCESSING PROGRAM AND)	
COMPUTER-READABLE RECORDING)	
MEDIUM IN WHICH THE PROGRAM)	
IS RECORDED)	

FIRST
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure as set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicants hereby submit the following information in conformance with 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.98, a copy of each of the documents cited is enclosed. However, copies of the listed U.S. patents and U.S. patent application publications are not enclosed since it is no longer required according to the July 11, 2003 waiver of the requirement for copies of cited U.S. patents and U.S. patent application publications in national patent applications filed after June 30, 2003 and international applications entering the national stage under 35 U.S.C. § 371 after June 30, 2003.

The filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed as a representation that a prior art search has been made.

In addition, the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed to be an admission that each of the references submitted herewith is in fact prior art with respect to the present application, or that each of the references is considered to be material to patentability as defined in § 1.56(b).

The documents are being submitted within 3 months of the filing and before the first Office Action on the merits, whichever is later, therefore no fee or certification is required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b).

To assist the Examiner, the documents are listed on the attached form PTO-1449. It is respectfully requested that an Examiner initialed copy of this form be returned to the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

BURNS, DOANE, SWECKER & MATHIS, L.L.P.

Date: 12/31/03

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APPLICATION No.
10/699,700

FILING DATE
November 4, 2003

GROUP
Unassigned

OIPE JC177
 DEC 31 2003
 PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials	Document Number	Kind Code (if known)	Country	Date of Publication (MM-DD-YYYY)	Translation Yes	No
	2001-169120		Japan	06-22-2001	Abstract Only	
	11-215382		Japan	08-06-1999	Abstract Only	
	9-149248		Japan	06-06-1997	Abstract Only	

[illegible]Date
Considered

EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with M.P.E.P. § 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. **SEND TO:** Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.